

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
INFO CINCPAC
COGARD
GOVGUAM
TREASURY
CLARK AFB PI

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CLARK AFB ATTN PIO FOR MORTON SMITH

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: MARCH 18 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA

VN PREMIER MEETS W/WOODCOCK MISSION, SAYS HE BELIEVES THEY
CAME W/GOODWILL AND PRES CARTER WANTS SOLVE PROBLEMS W/
NEW SPIRIT; ADDS "WE ARE READY" (WSJ; UPI WP, NYT. AP
PHINQ; SUN).

DEP FONMIN APPEARS SOFTEN VN DEMAND FOR RECONSTRUCTION AID,
SAYING WON'T BIND US TO AGREEMENT, "YOU MUST BIND YOUR-
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SELVES" (WSJ; AP, PHINQ) WOODCOCK SAYS MIA TALKS GOING
WELL, DOES NOT REVEAL WHAT SAID. THIS UNDERSTOOD MEAN
HANOI MAY HAVE AGREED RELEASE REMAINS 12 PILOTS WHOSE
DEATHS CONFIRMED LAST SEPT (AP BALTO NA 3/17, SUN, PHINQ).
MTG W/DONG COURTEOUS; MISSION GAVE DONG LTR FROM PRES,
CONTENTS NOT RELEASED (AP, PHINQ).

WOODCOCK ARRIVED AT DONG'S PALACE TO PRESENT PRES' PERSONAL LTR BUT NOBODY HAD LTR. EA'S ROSENTHAL RACED BACK TO GUEST HOUSE, RETURNED W/LTR AFTER WOODCOCK/DONG WERE TALKING 10 MINUTES (UPI, WP). WOODCOCK/DONG EXCHANGE COMPLIMENTS. EARLIER, VN PLEDGED TRACE MIAS/CALLED ON US PROVIDE

RECONSTRUCTION AID AS MATTER "HONOR." WOODCOCK SAID PLEASED W/PROGRESS MISSION, INDICATED NOT IN VN TO NEGOTIATE ON MATTERS OTHER THAN MIAS (UPI NYT, WP).

BEFORE SEEING WOODCOCK MISSION, PHAM VAN DONG TOLD VISITING DANISH NEWSMEN THAT HANOI INSISTS US MAKE 1ST MOVE TOWARD IMPROVING RELS BY PAYING SOME MONEY VN CONSIDERS DUE ON WAR "REPARATIONS," ENDING VETO ON VN UN MEMBERSHIP (REUTER COPENHAGEN).

LAOTIAN AMB TO FRANCE QUILTS POST, ASKS FOR ASYLUM IN PARIS (WP; AP, BALTO NA 3/17; REUTER, PHINQ).

2. CHINA

LAT'S LESLIE (3/17) IN HK SAYS PRC SEEMS TO BE LAYING GROUNDWORK FOR UNPRECEDENTED (IN HISTORY CHINESE COMMUNISM) 2ND RETURN OF TENG HSIAO-PING. TIMING OF TENG RETURN UNCERTAIN BUT LESLIE CITES RECENT PD ARTICLE AND OTHER SIGNS TENG'S GROWING STATURE.

ANDRE COLIN, FRENCH SENATOR AND CHAIRMAN SENATE'S FORAFF/DEFENSE/ARMED FORCES COMMITTEE, HAS BEGUN VISIT TO PRC-- UNCLASSIFIED

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1ST BY FR. POL FIGURE SINCE OCT PURGES (AFP-PEKING, NYT).

SERIOUS HEPATITIS OUTBREAK IN CANTON PROMPTED AUTHORITIES LAUNCH CAMPAIGN BETTER HYGIENE/PUBLIC HEALTH; 30,000 CASES REPORTEDLY IN NOV/DEC (REUTER, NYT).

HK'S "MING PAO" SAYS ACCORDING REPORTS CIRCULATING IN CANTON, HUA KUO-FENG ASKED CHIANG CHING EXPLAIN "MYSTERY" DEATHS OF TAN FU-JEN, LI CHEN, AND PI TING-CHUN (REUTER HK).

TWENTY-NINE PERSONS REPORTEDLY EXECUTED IN SHANGHAI/CANTON AS PRC'S LAW/ORDER CAMPAIGN GATHERS MOMENTUM (REUTER PEKING; AFP, NYT, WP). LONGER REUTER STORY BY DAVID ROGERS ADDS ALSO REPORTS OF EXECUTIONS IN HANGCHOW AND DEATH NOTICES SEEN IN CHANGSHA/WUHAN; NOTES RUMORS TENG SPENT FOUR MONTHS LAST YEAR IN CANTON CONFIRMED, SAYS TENG EXPECTED BE REHABILITATED SOON; ANALYSTS OPINE HSU SHIH-YU MAY BECOME DEFMIN AND OTHER MAJOR APPOINT-

MENTS BELIEVED IMMINENT.

3. HONG KONG

NYT'S BUTTERFIELD HIGHLIGHTS SUCCESS OF BANG BANG FASHIONS IN FEATURE ON HK'S GARMENT INDUSTRY. NOTES COLONY IS WORLD'S LARGEST GARMENT EXPORTER, W/GARMENTS 43 OF HK'S TOTAL EXPORTS IN '76. SAYS COLONY'S SUCCESS DESPITE OBSTACLES (QUOTAS, INTENSE LABOR COMPETITION, ETC.) AND IMPROVING FASHION IMAGE. CITES PROBLEMS IN CERTAIN SEGMENTS OF INDUSTRY BUT POINTS OUT SMALL SIZE FACTORIES LEND NEEDED FLEXIBILITY.

4. SINGAPORE

FE ECON REVIEW EDITOR DAVIES REPLIES TO GOS ALLEGATIONS AGAINST HIM; CALLS CHARGES "GROSS LIBELS" (REUTER HK).
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5. JAPAN

IN INTERVIEW W/PM, LAT'S JAMESON (3.12) SAYS FUKUDA OPPOSES PRES CARTER'S INTENTION BAN SPREAD NUKE FUEL REPROCESSING PLANTS. PM EXPECTS DISCUSS ISSUE W/PRES WHEN THEY MEET MARCH 21-22 IN WASHINGTON. CULLISON (JOC) SAYS ACHIEVE EARLY GLOBAL ECON RECOVERY WILL RECEIVE TOP PRIORITY AT FUKUDA-CARTER MTG, ACCORDING PM. OTHER IMPORTANT TOPICS WILL INCLUDE POSSIBLE MOVES ELIMINATE THREAT TRADE PROTECTIONISM/REPROCESSING USED NUKE FUEL/ MAINTENANCE PEACE IN ASIA/CHANCES WORLD BAN ON NUKE WEAPONS/POSSIBLY HUMAN RTS PROBLEMS.

MATSUSHITA MAY TRANSFER PRODUCTION TO US IF HIGHER TARIFFS IMPOSED ON COLOR TV SETS (REUTER, WP). JAPAN BOP W/US PRODUCED SURPLUS ABOUT 3.4 0ILLION DOLS LAST YR, FOR 1ST TIME IN 3 YRS (CULLISON, JOC). DOL SLIPS IN TOKYO DUE JAPAN'S SURPLUS, NOW 281.68 YEN (WSJ).

HIJACKING ATTEMPTS ON 2 ANA FLIGHTS FRUSTRATED BY PASSENGERS/CREW MEMBERS (SUN; WP; PHINQ; UPI, NYT).

6. KOREA

ACCORDING NYT'S MALCOM IN TOKYO, LI KYE BARK, NK OFFICIAL RESIDENT IN JAPAN/MEMBER DPRK PARLIAMENT, SUGGESTS NOW IS A GOOD TIME FOR NORMALIZATION US-DPRK RELS. LI ALSO SAID BELIEVED TIME FOR US ADMIN REASSESS KOREAN POLICY/ KIM IL-SUNG HAS GREAT INTEREST IN CARTER PLEDGE W/DRAW US TROOPS FROM SK/NK NOT ATTACHING ANY CONDITIONS TO

TALKS/PROPOSED DISCUSSING ALL PENDING QUESTIONS/MAY BE
POSSIBLE CONSIDER CARTER A "MAN OF JUSTICE." LI AIDE
ADDED "WELCOME MR. CARTER'S WILLINGNESS TO MAKLI AFRESH
START WITH OUR COUNTRY." ARTICLE ALSO MENTIONS TYPE US-
DPRK CONTACTS OVER YEARS, SK FEARS US DEAL W/NK, AND
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SEOUL'S CRITICISM OF US STANCE ON VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RTS.

NYT SPEC NOTES DOS OFFICIALS COMMENT THAT NK'S REMARKS
INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT/PART OF MIXED SIGNALS EMANATING
FROM PYONGYANG.

FROM TOKYO ROBERT CRABBE (UPI) POINTS OUT NK HAS LAUNCHED
FIRST ATTACK NEW US ADMIN, CHARGING PRES HASN'T KEPT
CAMPAIGN PLEDGE W/DRAW US TROOPS FROM SK. NOTES LI'S
CONTENTION NO REAL RE-EXAMINATION KOREAN POLICY FORTH-
COMING FROM WASHINGTON AND THAT HIS STATEMENT COMES AT
TIME KCNA CARRIED FIRST ARTICLES HOSTILE TO CARTER.
ALSO CITES LI'S VOICING LONG STANDING REQUEST FOR DPRK-US
PEACE TREATY, VIEW THAT CARTER "MAN OF JUSTICE." ADDS
LI STATEMENTS OFTEN REFLECT DPRK POSITION IN WORLD AFFAIRS.

7. INDONESIA

EA DEP ASST SECY OAKLEY TOLD CONGRESSIONAL HEARING US
BRIEFLY HALTED AID TO JAKARTA DUE INDONESIA'S TAKEOVER
OF E. TIMOR UNTIL IT DETERMINED US LAW NOT VIOLATED BY
USE US MIL AID FOR AGGRESSIVE PURPOSES (REUTER, NYT).
WP'S LESCAZE CARRIES LONGER PIECE ON OAKLEY TESTIMONY TO
WOLFF SUBCMTE, NOTES WOLFF ALSO ASKS ACTING ASST ADM OF
AID ADLER ABOUT REPORTS UNWARRANTED STERILIZATION PROGRAMS
IN BURMA/THAILAND. ADLER PROMISED GIVE FULL REPORT.

WSJ REPORTS INDONESIA'S TOP ECON PLANNERS CONFIDENT
NATION IN LONG TERM WILL IMPROVE BUT CONCERNED ABOUT SHORT
TERM PROBLEMS WHICH COULD IMPEDE DEVELOPMENT. ARTICLE
CITES WIDJOJO NITISASTRO, HEAD OF NATL PLANNING BOARD AS
SAYING "WORST IS OVER."

8. PRES' UN ADDRESS

PAPERS PROMINENTLY COVER PRES' ADDRESS. WP/NYT/SUN CARRY
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TEXT. GWERTZMAN (NYT) REPORTS PRES URGES UN STEP UP

EFFORTS FOR HUMAN RTS, BUT MADE CLEAR US WOULD NOT TRY LINK OTHER SECURITY/ECON ISSUES THAT HAD HIGHER PRIORITY. LEUBSDORF (SUN) SEES SPEECH AIMED AT TELLING NATION/WORLD THAT HE WILL BE ADMIN'S CHIEF FOPOLICY SPOKESMAN. WALSH (WP) NOTES PRES STRESSES ARMS/RTS IN POLICY SPEECH. IN TEXT (NYT) PRES MENTIONED LATER THIS YR LEADERS SEVERAL INDUSTRIAL NATIONS OF EUR/N AM/JAPAN WILL CONFER AT LONDON SUMMIT; SAID WILL CONTINUE DEVELOP RELATIONSHIP W/PRC SINCE RECOGNIZE PARALLEL INTERESTS IN MAINTAINING PEACE IN ASIA, WILL ACT IN SPIRIT OF SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE; ADDED IN SEA AND PAC WILL STRENGTHEN ASSN W/TRADITIONAL FRIENDS, SEEK IMPROVE RELS W/ FORMER ADVERSARIES.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

9. INDOCHINA

AP'S ARNETT DESCRIBES HANOI. SAYS LOOK AS IF WAR STILL GOING ON W/MIL TRUCKS/SOLDIERS BUSY REBUILDING, BUT FINDS RECONSTRUCTION GOING SLOWLY (BALTO NA 3/17, PHINQ, WP).

HARSCH (CSM) SEES WOODCOCK MISSION INITIATING NEW BEGINNING IN INDOCHINA. SAYS TRUE OBJECTIVE NOT MIAS, BUT TO START TALKS W/HANOI THAT EXPECTED SOME DAY LEAD TO DIPL/TRADE RELS. REVIEWS HISTORY US/VN RELS IN 1945 WHEN RELS MIGHT HAVE BEEN OPENED W/HO CHI MINH. BELIEVES PRAGMATIC CONSIDERATIONS FOPOLICY NOT BEING OVERLOOKED BY CARTER ADMIN. - -

CHIS-T (3/16) SEES 2 EVENTS ADDING TO CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM RE US/VN RELS: WOODCOCK MISSION; DONATION HOSPITAL TO MY LAI BY RELIGIOUS/PEACE GROUPS. OPINES PRIVATE/OFFICIAL STEPS TO NEW ERA WILL MEAN MOST IF ROOTED IN ETHICAL CONCERNS.

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10. JAPAN

BANK TOKYO/BANK JAPAN PLACE LENGTHY ARTICLES ON TOKYO AS INTL CAPITAL MKT/JAPANESE TRADE/INDUSTRY IN WSJ.

THARP (WSJ) LOOKS OVER UPCOMING FUKUDA-CARTER TALKS, OPINES WILL DWELL ON AS MANY POL QUESTIONS AS ECON ISSUES. TOPICS WILL INCLUDE BILATERAL TRADE/WITHDRAWAL US GROUND TROOPS FROM SK/HUMAN RTS/REVIVAL WORLD TRADE/PROTEC-

TIONISM/NUKE QUESTIONS. SAYS SUMMIT VIEWED AS FORUM IN
WHICH JAPAN CAN ESTABLISH SELF IN EYES NEW ADMIN AS MAJOR
ALLY.
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